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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of His Excellency, Mr. Ilija Djukić, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 1 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have to inform you with regret and resentment that, in defiance of resolution 802 adopted by the Security Council and despite the condemnations expressed in the statements of its President, the Republic of Croatia's brutal aggression against the areas under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) continues. To make things worse, according to the information available so far, the Republic of Croatia is preparing a fresh attack on the area of Western Slavonia (Sector West).

The Republic of Croatia is continuing the concentration and operational development of its forces in the area of Lipovljan, Kutina, Garešnica, Novska, Pakrac and Nova Gradiška. An armour column is stationed on the Petrovo selo-Nova Gradiška road. Tanks are also being deployed along the Kutina-Novksa route. The Republic of Croatia intends to carry out the whole operation under the pretext of ending the blockade of the motorway. In addition to infantry, artillery and armoured units they also plan to use air forces. Conscription is continuing in the Republic of Croatia and call-up slips have been sent also to Croatians living in Austria, Germany and Hungary. Reconnaissance missions have been intensified with respect to Baranja, Western Srem and Eastern Slavonia as well as troop build-ups in the wider area of Osijek, Valpovo and Vinkovci. Over the past few days, the Croatian authorities have even begun evacuating the civilian population from Daruvar to Bjelovar, including from the eastern part of the town of Osijek to the village of Sarvaš, and vacating hospitals, an additional indication that the preparations for a new aggression are under way.

All these elements have been made known to General Zabala, Commander of the Force, Sector West, and subsequently to General Satish Nambiar himself.

By undertaking preparations for a new attack on the area under the protection of UNPROFOR, the Republic of Croatia not only defies the provisions of resolution 802 but is ready to cause new bloodshed. The purpose of the attack is to overinternationalize the conflicts in the territory of the former SFRY and, furthermore, to draw the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the open conflict too.

The FR of Yugoslavia as a party to the Vance plan has both the obligation and a right to protect the Serb population in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA). Yugoslavia has already warned of this commitment, though it has exercised maximum restraint so far in respect of Croatia's aggression in the UNPAs, which is in accordance with its efforts aimed at safeguarding peace and ensuring success of the Geneva Conference.

I would like to draw the attention of the Council that an attack on Western Slavonia by the Republic of Croatia would, inter alia, directly violate the borders of the FR of Yugoslavia, a fact which should particularly be borne in mind in the context of provoking possible actions by the FRY in the future. A peaceful and negotiated solution in the framework of the Geneva Conference continues to be a strong objective pursued by the FR of Yugoslavia and its Government.

We reiterate that a prompt action by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter is now, in view of the continuing aggression of the Republic of Croatia and its refusal to comply with resolution 802, more imperative than ever before. For all these reasons, we expect not only a fresh condemnation of the Republic of Croatia, but also specific measures to be taken by the Security Council to punish the previous and prevent any further aggression by Croatia. Unless, as a matter of urgency, measures are taken in this respect, the aggression by the Republic of Croatia will threaten to spread the flames of war to the entire Balkan region.

(Signed) Ilija DJUKIĆ